

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-14

NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /132 W
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O R 091915Z SEP 74

FM USMISSUON BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1555

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ETRN, WB, US, BU

SUBJECT: PAA BULGARIAN OVERFLIGHTS

REF: A) SOFIA 1599 B) STATE 196932

1. TURNBACK OF PAN AM CHARTER FLIGHT HAS RECEIVED MAJOR
PLAY IN BERLIN PRESS--IT WAS LEAD STORY IN SEPTEMBER 8 TAGESSPIEGEL-
-AND SENAT IS PRESSING US FOR INFORMATION AS TO WHAT ACTION
WE ARE TAKING. PAPERS HAVE NOTED THAT TURNBACK WAS CLEAR
VIOLATION OF BULGARIA'S ICAO OBLIGATIONS AND HAVE REPORTED
THAT SENAT IS IN TOUCH WITH ALLIES. WE HAVE RESPONDED TO INQUIRIES
BY NOTING THAT MATTER WILL BE HANDLED BILATERALLY BUT HAVE
NOT MENTIONED DEMARCHE AUTHORIZED REF B.

2. PAN AM ASSURES US THAT REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE OF FLIGHT 497
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(327 IS TAIL NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT, WHICH WAS USED AS CALL

SIGN AT REQUEST BULGARIANS) MADE NO MENTION OF BERLIN AS
POINT OF ORIGIN AND WAS HANDLED ENTIRELY BY PRAGUE OFFICE.
FACT THAT ALL GERMAN PAN AM OPERATIONS ARE MANAGED OUT OF
BERLIN, HOWEVER, IS BOUND TO KEEP PAN AM OFFICIALS HERE INVOLVED.
AS IN PAST AND AS IN CASE BRITISH CARRIERS, CLEARANCE
WAS REQUESTED ONLY FOR FRG-TURKEY FLIGHT. WHILE INCIDENT
MAY, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN CONNECTED WITH VIP ARRIVALS,
WE ARE ONLY AWARE OF CLOSURE OF SOFIA AIRFIELD, NOT OF
BULGARIAN AIRSPACE (USDAO/COPENHAGEN 03105572 SEPT. 74) AND
THESE TIMES WERE UNRELATED TO PAN AM FLIGHT. FLIGHT, BY THESWAY,
WAS AIRBONE ON SEPTEMBER 6 AND WAS SCHEDULED TO
ENTER BULGARIAN AIRSPACE AT APPROXIMATELY 2345 ZULU, SEPT. 6
(0045 SEPT. 7 LOCAL TIME).

3. PAN AM FREIGHT CHARTER SCHEDULED TO DEPART MORNING
SEPTEMBER 9 WAS DELAYED BY LOADING DIFFICULTIES BUT SHOULD
HAVE TRANSITTED BULGARIAN AIRSPACE BY LATE AFTERNOON ZULU.

AS OF 1910 ZULU WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON PROGRESS
OF FLIGHT BUT ASSUME NO NEWS AT THIS POINT IS GOOD NEWS.
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